

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 SWF-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 COME-00 DRC-01 /199 W

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R 151107Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3695

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

AMCONSUL BIENHOA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DA NANG

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL EMLBOURNE

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, SREF, VS

SUBJECT: CVT TO CREATE A RURAL COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY

1. TRAN QUOC BUU TOLD LABATT THAT HIS LONG EFFORT TO CREATE A VIETNAMESE "AGROVILLE" OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE, FINALLY GOT OFF THE GROUND BY THE APPROVAL OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF OF BINH TUY OF GRANTS OF TRACTS OF LAND IN TWO DISTRICTS. THE FIRST TRACT

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OF 4000 HECTARES IS LOCATED IN HAM TAN DISTRICT, AND THE SECOND,

OF 5000 HECTARES, IS IN TANH LINH DISTRICT, 7 KM DISTANT FROM THE FIRST. THE DELAY IN SIGNING THE PAPERS NECESSARY TO TRANSFER TITLE TO THE LAND TO CVT WAS OCCASIONED BY THE ABSENCE FROM VIET-NAM OF THE PRIME MINISTER, WHOSE APPROVAL WAS REQUIRED. DR. PHAN QUANG DAN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR LAND RECLAMATION AND HAMLET DEVELOPMENT, SIGNED AND TITLE PASSED THE MORNING OF APRIL 11, 1974.

2. BUU HAS ESTABLISHED IN CVT A "COMMITTEE ON RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT" FOR THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE AGROVILLES. HE HAS PLACED THE AGROVILLES IN CHARGE OF HIS TRUSTED AND MOST ABLE CADRE, TRAN DISH THIEU, MANAGER OF THE CVT BONDED WAREHOUSE. THIEU SAID, "OUR PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE A NEW LIFE TO UNEMPLOYED CVT MEMBERS FROM SAIGON AND THE PROVINCES. THE CANDIDATES FOR RESIDENCE IN THE AGROVILLES MUST BE SPONSORED BY THE CVT COUNCIL IN SAIGON OR THE PROVINCES. THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE A GVN PROJECT. IT WILL BE RUN ENTIRELY BY THE CVT CADRE. OUR MOTTO WILL BE 'SELF-SUPPORT'. WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE 6000 FAMILIES. WITH AN AVERAGE OF FIVE PEOPLE IN A FAMILY, THAT WOULD BE AT LEAST 30,000 PEOPLES WITH NEW LIVES."

3. THE CVT CADRES WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED ABROAD WILL BE PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN PLANNING THE FUTURE OF THESE AGROVILLES. CVT HAS NOT YET DETERMINED HOW MUCH LAND TO ASSIGN TO EACH UNEMPLOYED MEMBER BUT MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED WITH THEIR TENANT FARMERS UNION CADRE TO MAKE THE DETERMINATION. THE INTENT IS TO PROVIDE HOUSING MATERIALS AND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE ON HOME BUILDING AND TO ENCOURAGE THE PRODUCTION OF RICE, SUGAR CANE, BANANAS, AND MANIOC. HANDICRAFT INDUSTRIES AND PRODUCTION OF CHARCOAL FROM THE DENSE FOREST THAT COVERS THIS VIRGIN LAND WILL BE PROMOTED. A FRESHWATER LAKE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF ONE TRACT OF LAND IN WHICH FISH FARMING WILL BE ENCOURAGED.

4. BUU INTENDS TO SOLICIT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM FRIENDLY UNIONS ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP AROUND THE WORLD (SEE SAIGON 4083).

5. COMMENT: THIS WILL BE THE THIRD, AND BY FAR THE LARGEST, RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY TRAN QUOC BUU AND THE CVT. TWO PREVIOUS HAMLETS WERE LOCATED IN THE SUBURBS OF THE CITY OF CAM RANH. THE FIRST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL HAMLET WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESTABLISHED JUST AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE 1954 GENEVA AGREEMENT AND VIRTUALLY ALL OF ITS INHABITANTS WERE MIGRANTS FROM THE NORTH. THE SECOND HAMLET (DONG LAP) WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1966 FOR REFUGEES DISPOSSESSED BY VIET CONG TERRORISM IN THE SOUTH. THE LATTER RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM US MILITARY CIVIC ACTION, USAID, AND AFL-CIO UNIONS, SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRICAL RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS WHICH RAISED \$30,000 BY SOLICITATION OF ITS MEMBERS IN THEIR WORKSHOPS. THE UNION

UTILIZED SUCH MADISON AVENUE TACTICS AS BUMPER STICKERS
ASKING SUPPORT FOR THE CVT VILLAGE IN VIET-NAM. DONG LAP WAS
DESTROYED BY THE VIET CONG A FEW YEARS AGO BUT WAS REHABILITATED
BY ITS FORMER OCCUPANTS AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE QUITE PROSPEROUS
TODAY.

6. IF CVT CAN SUCCESSFULLY MOVE 6000 UNEMPLOYED WORKERS AND
THEIR FAMILIES FROM OVERCROWDED URBAN AREAS TO PIONEER THE NEW
FRONTIERS OF UNDERDEVELOPED VIET-NAM, THEY WILL NOT ONLY MAKE A
NEW AND BETTER LIFE FOR THEM BUT CONCEIVABLY SHOW THE WAY FOR BIGGER
AND BETTER RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS. THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING
FOOD SUPPLIES IS ALSO VERY HIGH.

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